

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
USMISSION NATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 6927

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, CH, AL
SUBJ: ALBANIA-PRC RELATIONS

REF: ATHENS 6017

1. THE GREEK MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS SEEMS AS UNSURE
ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHINESE-ALBANIAN RELATIONS AS OTHER
OBSERVERS OF THE PEKING-TIRANA TIE. IN SUM, THE GREEK VIEW
IS THAT "UNCERTAINTY"PREVAILS IN THE RELATIONSHIP AND THAT
IT IS CLEARLY UP TO THE CHINESE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

2. IN THIS CONTEXT, THE MFA ALSO PROVIDED US WITH A VERY
SUMMARY ACCOUNT OF WHAT TOOK PLACE DURING THE RECENT MEETING
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BETWEEN ALBANIAN PRIME MINISTER SHEHU AND GREEK AMBASSADOR
TO ALBANIA MITSOPOULOS. SHEHU REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED
SOME SURPRISE THAT THE ZERI I POPULLIT EDITORIAL
SHOULD HAVE GENERATED SO MUCH INTEREST SINCE IT WAS, IN
HIS VIEW, NOTHING SPECIAL. SHEHU MAINTAINED THAT THE
EDITORIAL HAD ONLY REPEATED THE SAME THINGS THAT HOXHA HAS
SAID AT THE PARTY CONGRESS. WHEN MITSOPOULOS PROBED ABOUT

POSSIBLE CHINESE REACTION TO THE EDITORIAL, SHEHU RESPONDED THAT THE ALBANIANS WERE SIMPLE RESTATING THEIR PRINCIPLES AND IT WAS UP TO THE CHINESE TO DECIDE HOW TO REACT TO SUCH A STATEMENT.

3. THE MFA ALSO TOLD US THAT THEIR EMBASSY IN TIRANA HAD LEARNED--APPARENTLY ON THE DIPLOMATIC CIRCUIT--THAT WHEN ONE "WARSAW PACT" DIPLOMAT ASKED THE ALBANIANS WHETHER THERE WOULD NOW BE SOFTENING IN THE ALBANIAN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE SOVIET UNION, THE ALBANIAN REPLIED IN CATEGORICAL TERMS THAT HIS COUNTRY CONTEMPLATED NO SUCH CHANGE.

4. OUR GOG SOURCE EXPRESSED SATISFACTION AT THE PACE AND CONTENT OF GREEK-ALBANIAN RELATIONS. HE MENTIONED THAT THE TWO NATIONS ARE AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO OPENING THEIR BORDERS TO ROAD TRAFFIC. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THE GREEKS WERE INSISTING THAT IT BE OPENED AT TWO POINTS--ONE IN THE EAST AND ONE IN THE WEST. THE ALBANIANS WERE RESISTING THE WESTERN CROSSING, IT SEEMS BECAUSE THE ROAD IN ALBANIA WOULD TRAVEL THROUGH AN AREA HEAVILY POPULATED BY GREEK ALBANIANS.

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